

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

EB-07 AID-05 /128 W

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R 040114Z NOV 75

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3559

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION VIENNA

UNCLAS USUN 5588

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, AORG, SOPN, ABLD

SUBJ: UN FINANCES: FIFTH COMMITTEE DISCUSSED PUBLIC INFORMATION
POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES

REF: USUN 5551

1. SUMMARY: AT 1728TH MEETING, NOV 3, CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED
REVISED PROGRAM OF WEEK'S WORK (SEE PARA 2). STATEMENTS
ON PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES WERE MADE BY
REPS OF BULGARIA, AUSTRALIA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, COLOMBIA,
ARGENTINA, CAMEROON, AND SINGAPORE. ASYG AKANTANI RESPONDED
TO QUESTIONS. COLOMBIA, JAPAN AND PAKISTAN INTRODUCED
DRAFT RESOLUTION AND TWO DRAFT DECISIONS. ACABQ CHAIRMAN
BEGAN TO INTRODUCE PROGRAM BUDGET LSECTION 26 (CONSTRUCTION).
END SUMMARY

2. CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED REVISED PROGRAM OF WEEK'S WORK:
TUESDAY MORNING: CONTINUE ITEM 99 (JOINT INSPECTION UNIT)
AND SECTION 26 (CONSTRUCTION, ALTERATION, IMPROVEMENT AND
MAINTENANCE OF PREMISES); WEDNESDAY MORNING: CONTINUE
ITEM 99, RESUME ITEM 101 (PUBS AND DOCS), CONCLUDE SECTION
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26; WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON; CONCLUDE OPI, BEGIN SECTION 17

(OFFICE DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR), CONTINUE ITEM 101, BEGIN QUESTION OF EFFECT OF CURRENCY INSTABILITY; THURSDAY MORNING: CONTINUE ITEM 101, CURRENCY INSTABILITY, CONCLUDE 99, BEGIN SECTION 15 (REGULAR PROGRAM OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE) AND 24 (UN BOND ISSUE); FRIDAY MORNING: CONCLUDE ITEM 101 AND SECTION 24, BEGIN SECTION 23 (CONFERENCE AND LIBRARY SERVICES), HOLD ELECTIONS TO UN ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL (ITEM 103E); FRIDAY AFTERNOON: CONCLUDE SECTION 15, CONTINUE SECTION 23, CONCLUDE CURRENCY INSTABILITY.

3. PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES AND SECTION 21. BULGARIA SUPPORTED ACABQ RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADDED HE BELIEVED OPI COULD OPERATE WITH THEM WITHOUT DIMINISHING ACTIVITIES. AUSTRALIA APPROVED THEMATIC APPROACH, ADDING UN IS POLITICAL FORUM WHERE UNPALATABLE DECISIONS ARE MADE AND THAT OPI SHOULD ACCURATELY REPORT THEM. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO SAID OPI SHOULD MAKE GREATER EFFORT TO REACH PEOPLE ALL OVER WORLD, PARTICULARLY AT GRASS ROOTS LEVEL; IT SHOULD RE-EVALUATE ITS WORK AND ELIMINATE LOW-PRIORITY PROGRAMS; FINALLY SUPPORTED RECOMMENDATIONS OF ACABQ. COLOMBIA WAS CONCERNED AT DETERIORATION OF UN'S IMAGE AND SAID LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT UN COULD RESULT IN LOSS OF SUPPORT; SAID OPI HAS ACTIVE ROLE TO PLAY IN DISSEMINATING INFO ABOUT ACHIEVEMENTS OF ORGANIZATION; AND GAVE ORAL AMENDMENTS TO OPERATIVE PARAS 1 AND 2 OF HIS DRAFT DECISION IN A/C.5/L.1241, SUBSTITUTING SYG FOR OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION. ARGENTINA SAID IT IS NECESSARY TO BROADEN AND STRENGTHEN OPI, AND THAT ITS ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE PRAGMATIC AND IMAGINATIVE. CAMEROONS SAID OPI HAS GRANDIOSE TASK IN DIRECTING ATTENTION TO THIRD WORLD AND RESERVED RIGHT TO SUBMIT AMENDMENT TO A/C.5/L.1241. SINGAPORE SUPPORTED THE THEMATIC APPROACH, ALSO A/C.5/L.1241; SAID OPI SHOULD IN THIS 30TH YEAR TAKE LONG HARD LOOK AT ITSELF, REASSESS ITS GOALS AND SUCCESSES, AND ELIMINATE OUTMODED PROGRAMS FOR HIGH PRIORITY ONES; ENDED BY SUPPORTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF ACABQ.

4. ASYG AKATANI RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS, SAYING JOINT UN INFORMATION COMMITTEE (UNIC) WAS CIRCULATING DRAFT PLAN FOR COMMENTS, PROVIDING A THEME, BUT PERMITTING INDIVIDUAL UNCLASSIFIED

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ORGANIZATIONS TO CONCENTRATE ON WAY TO IMPLEMENT. AT PRESENT THERE ARE 56 INFORMATION CENTRES AND THAT TWO MORE ARE BEING ORGANIZED IN LESOTHO AND UPPER VOLTA. HOPED MORE HOST GOVERNMENTS WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONAL COSTS OF NEW CENTRES. SAID CESI (CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INFORMATION) WILL NEXT YEAR PUBLISH FACTUAL AND UP-TO-DATE MATERIAL IN CONNECTION WITH UNCTAD IV. 34 PERCENT OF OPI BUDGET

FOR BIENNIUM IS SPENT FOR RADIO AND VISUAL SERVICES. REDUCTION OF VISITORS TO UN HEADQUARTERS IS REFLECTION OF ECONOMIC DOWNTURN AND CONSEQUENT REDUCTION IN TOURISM. FINALLY SAID HE IS CAREFULLY STUDYING SUGGESTIONS MADE DURING DEBATE SO AS TO REFLECT WISHES OF MEMBER STATES.

5. COMMITTEE BEGAIN DISCUSSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY COLOMBIA (A/C.5/L.1241) AND TWO DRAFT DECISIONS SUBMITTED BY ITALY, JAPAN, KENYA, PHILIPPINES AND TURKEY (A/C.5/L.1242), AND PRESENTED BY PAKISTAN (A/C.5/L.1243). FIRST DECISION PROPOSES CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICIES IN OFF-BUDGET YEARS; SECOND PROPOSES MORE TIMELY PUBLICATION OF YEARBOOK OF UN. A NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS AND CORRECTIONS WERE OFFERED BY VARIOUS DELEGATIONS. COLOMBIA DEL SAID REVISED VERSION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION WOULD BE CIRCULATED NOV 4 AND COMMITTEE DECIDED TO POSTPONE DISCUSSION UNTIL NOV. 5.

6. ACABQ CHAIRMAN BEGAN TO INTRODUCE SECTION 26 IN CONJUNCTION WITH RELATED SUB-ITEMS (A/C.5/L.1690 AND A/C.5/L. 1694) AND ANNOUNCED THAT ACCOMMODATIONS AT BANGKOK, ADDIS ABABA AND SANTIAGO (A/C.5/L.1673) WILL BE TAKEN UP LATER IN THE WEEK. AFTER PROCEDURAL DISCUSSION, IT WAS DECIDED THAT CONSIDERATION OF SECTION 26 AND RELATED SUB-ITEMS WOULD BE RESUMED NOV. 4.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FINANCE, BUDGETS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, UNGA RESOLUTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USUNN05588
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750381-0938
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751178/aaaacsns.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 NOV 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN FINANCES: FIFTH COMMITTEE DISCUSSED PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES
TAGS: AORG, SOPN, ABLD, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006